

other of those dear nurses we knew who have fallen into sad fortunes, and are ill or dependent or homeless, we say devoutly, Thank God for the farm.

We take this opportunity to thank the many who have received our little experiences so kindly. The writing has been a pleasure although often lamely and hurriedly done, but if from them one discouraged nurse takes a new hold on life, they are not written in vain and we make no apology for their defects but say with Touchstone: "An ill-favored thing, sir, but mine own."

JUVENILE COURT WORK, FROM A NURSE'S STAND-POINT

By KATE HUBBARD

Matron of Juvenile Court, Spokane, Wash.

ANOTHER field has been opened to our profession, that is, Juvenile Court work, or that of superintending the Detention Rooms for Juvenile Delinquents. This work is still in its infancy, having been first established in Denver in 1899. After a good test, the State of Washington followed the example given by providing for Juvenile Court work which came into operation June 7th, 1905. Until that time, there had been a steady procession of children going to the Reform School; since the establishment of Juvenile Work, many children are given an opportunity to do better, this being done by releasing the children from the detention rooms, and allowing them to report to the matron or some other probation officer every week: by this arrangement the children have their freedom, but are still in the custody of the Court. Many times, thorough investigations have brought to light the fact that the child is not at all the true culprit, but that some older person, often his employer, has been the true cause of his falling into the hands of the law. Our readers can easily imagine how this is true. For instance, in our large cities, messenger boys are continually sent on errands to saloons, club-rooms, billiard halls, vaudeville theatres, and even worse resorts, the results often being that, exposed to temptations of all kinds, from which immature characters should be shielded, and which children and youths are not prepared to resist, they fall into delinquency. We must each ask ourselves the question: "Whose is the responsibility?"

The injurious effects of tobacco and cigarettes are often demonstrated, in cases too numerous to mention. The boy starts with an occasional puff at a cigarette, but soon becomes a confirmed smoker; studies in the school-room drag, his head is heavy, he fails at examination, becomes discouraged, and drops from the school rolls. His next appearance is in the "Juvenile Detention Room."

We need to realize that over one half of our prison population are recruited from the youth of our nation who arrive at the prison as a result of neglect in childhood. To prevent this and save the children is the aim of Juvenile Court and probation work. I will tell of the daily routine of the Juvenile Department in Spokane. This department is located in the County Court House and has had many donations since its establishment.

When the youths arrive, they are "booked," searched and taken to the baths, where a full equipment of hot and cold baths and showers is provided.

After a thorough examination they are given all the privileges of the institution and provided with games and reading matter. Card-playing, tobacco and cigars are forbidden. They are taught the care of the person, thorough every-day cleanliness and rules of hygiene.

Our day's work begins at seven, when we rise. After prayers and breakfast the matron takes the truants up to the Juvenile Court room (in the same building) where their cases are disposed of.

On Tuesdays and Fridays cases of incorrigibility, larceny, etc., are tried as well as the truants. Young prisoners who are allowed out on parole are requested to report to the matron every week, on a fixed day.

After returning from Court the rest of the morning is taken up with the practical teaching in cleanliness, hygiene, etc., already spoken of. Dinner is at 1 P. M., and afterwards relatives and friends may visit the children until 3.30. Then for an hour there is out-of-door exercise in the grounds of the institution, which are kept in good order by the trustees of the county jail, an adjoining institution.

Returning from play each child takes a bath and is inspected by the matron, clothes and person being examined.

Supper is served at 6, and the children spend the early evening hours as they wish, in their rooms. Lights are out at 8 o'clock.